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Ardhamagadhi Prakrit

Ardhamagadhi Prakrit was a Middle Indo-Aryan language and a Dramatic Prakrit thought to have been spoken in modern-day Bihar & Eastern Uttar Pradesh and used in some early Buddhist and Jain drama. It was likely a Central Indo-Aryan language, related to Pali and the later Sauraseni Prakrit and is thought to be an ancestor of Awadhi, Bhojpuri including Caribbean Hindustani, and Fiji Hindi.[3]

It was originally thought to be a predecessor of the vernacular Magadhi Prakrit, hence the name (literally "half-Magadhi").

Ardhamagadhi Prakrit	
Ardhamāgadhī	
Region	India
Extinct	developed into Eastern Hindi languages[1][2]
Language family	Indo-European ▪ Indo-Iranian ▪ Indo-Aryan ▪ **Ardhamagadhi Prakrit**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	pka
Glottolog	*None*

Pali and Ardhamāgadhī

Theravada Buddhist tradition has long held that Pali was synonymous with Magadhi and there are many analogies between it and *Ardhamāgadhī*, literally 'half-Magadhi'. *Ardhamāgadhī* was prominently used by Jain scholars[4] and is preserved in the Jain Agamas. Both Gautama Buddha and the tirthankara Mahavira preached in Magadha.

Ardhamāgadhī differs from later Magadhi Prakrit on similar points as Pāli. For example, Ardhamāgadhī preserves historical [l], unlike later Magadhi, where [l] changed into [r]. Additionally, in the noun inflection, Ardhamagadhi shows the ending [-o] instead of Magadhi Prakrit [-e] in many metrical places.

Pali: *Dhammapada* 103:

> *Yo sahassaṃ sahassena, saṅgāme mānuse jine;*
>
> *Ekañca jeyyamattānaṃ, sa ve saṅgāmajuttamo.*
>
> Greater in battle than the man who would conquer a thousand-thousand men,
>
> is he who would conquer just one — himself.

Ardhamagadhi: *Saman Suttam* 125:

> *Jo sahassam sahassanam, samgame dujjae jine.*
>
> *Egam jinejja appanam, esa se paramo jao.*
>
> One may conquer thousands and thousands of enemies in an invincible battle;
>
> but the supreme victory consists in conquest over one's self.

References

1. Saksena, Baburam (1971). *Evolution of Awadhi (a Branch of Hindi)*. 9788120808553: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers. p. 7.
2. Harrison, Selig S. (2015). *India: The Most Dangerous Decades*. Princeton University Press. p. 26. ISBN 9781400877805.
3. Cardona, George; Jain, Dhanesh, eds. (2003), "The historical context and development of Indo-Aryan", *The Indo-Aryan Languages*, Routledge language family series, London: Routledge, pp. 46–66, ISBN 0-7007-1130-9
4. Constance Jones; James D. Ryan (2006). *Encyclopedia of Hinduism* (https://books.google.com/books?id=OgMmceadQ3gC&pg=PA42). Infobase Publishing. p. 42. ISBN 978-0-8160-7564-5.

External links

- An Illustrated Ardha-Magadhi Dictionary (https://archive.org/download/ardhamagadhidict005007mbp/ardhamagadhidict005007mbp.pdf)

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